

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, KS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH KIM CHONG-YOM ON KIM CASE AND
INVESTIGATIONS

REF: STATE 296786

1. KIM SANG-KUN HAS SO FAR CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO MEET
WITH KOREAN AMBASSADOR OR OTHER EMBASSY OFFICER. JUSTICE
AND STATE OFFICIALS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET WITH KIM
DECEMBER 10 TO DISCUSS WITH HIM IMPORTANCE OF AT LEAST
BRIEF MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR HAHM. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT
KNOW WHAT OUTCOME OF MEETING WILL BE AND DO NOT WISH TO
DEFER FURTHER AT LEAST INITIAL INFORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN
YOU AND SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG-YOM ALONG LINES
REFTEL. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLY MEETING WITH
KIM TO DISCUSS KIM SANG-KUN CASE, INVESTIGATIONS, AND U.S.

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RELATIONS INFORMALLY ALONG LINES PARAS 6 AND 7 REFTTEL.

2. SPECIFICALLY, YOU SHOULD REITERATE OUR FIRM POSITION THAT INVESTIGATIONS AND KIM SANG-KUN CASE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR BASIC SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ROK OR OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE, FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE TIES WITH THE ROKG AND KOREAN PEOPLE. WE HAVE MADE THIS CLEAR PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS

AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. WE ARE DETERMINED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE VITAL MILITARY, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND DIPLOMATIC ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS AND THE KIM CASE.

3. AT SAME TIME, ROKG MUST UNDERSTAND THAT INVESTIGATIONS WILL BE PURSUED UNDER THE LAW. THIS PROCESS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY EXTEND OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY CONSIDERABLE PRESS COVERAGE.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE KIM SANG-KUN CASE, OUR POSITION HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR BY OUR FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS HERE AND IN SEOUL AND BY OUR AIDE-MEMOIRE. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROKG SECURING ACCESS TO MR. KIM AND STATED IN OUR AIDE-MEMOIRE THAT SUCH ACCESS IS DESIRABLE FROM OUR STANDPOINT. WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONVEY TO MR. KIM THE ROKG'S DESIRE FOR A MEETING AND HOPE THAT HE WILL AGREE TO ONE.

5. IN APPROPRIATELY LOW KEY YOU MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT PROBLEMS WHICH ROKG IS CREATING FOR ITSELF BY ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON KIM SANG-KUN CASE AND ALLEGED BLUE HOUSE BUGGING. ON THE QUESTION OF THE BLUE HOUSE BUGGING ALLEGATIONS, WE HAVE ALREADY ASSURED THE ROKG PRIVATELY THAT SUCH BUGGING HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE. IN CONFORMITY WITH OUR PRINCIPLE OF NOT COMMENTING PUBLICLY ON ALLEGATIONS OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO DENY THIS CHARGE PUBLICLY.

6. AS THE ROKG IS ALREADY AWARE, THE DECEMBER 8 ROKG OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE KIM SANG-KUN CASE AND THE STATEMENT ON THE BUGGING CHARGES ARE, IN OUR VIEW,
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UNHELPFUL. THEY HAVE GIVEN THE VERY IMPRESSION OF CONFRONTATION AND STRAINED RELATIONS WHICH WE AND THE ROKG SHOULD BE TRYING TO AVOID. OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS, IN CONTRAST, AND OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. PRESS HAVE EMPHASIZED THE CONTINUITY OF OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN KOREA AND OF OUR BASIC RELATIONSHIP.

7. BASED ON KIM CHONG-YOM'S INITIAL REACTIONS, WE WILL

CONSIDER FURTHER POINTS FOR YOUR USE IN ANY FUTURE
MEETINGS.
ROBINSON

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